

Interrogation

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United Press International

Interrogation A U.S. soldier and a South Vietnamese interpreter hold down a Vietcong suspect during questioning as another interpreter pours water on a towel covering his face.

This induces a fleeting sense of suffocation and drowning meant to make him talk. The incident occurred near Danang Jan. 17. Picture story on Page A25.

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A patrol of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) flushed a Vietcong suspect from a bunker during Operation Wheeler Wallowa about 25 miles south of the seaport of Danang Wednesday (upper left). The troopers, convinced they had received sniper fire from the man's position, promptly began questioning him. As the interrogation got under way, the suspect, clad in the black pajamas typical of the Vietnamese peasant and the Vietcong, knelt and clasped his hands. A South Vietnamese interpreter, apparently not satisfied with the answers he was getting, prodded the man with his boot, pushing him to the ground. Next (left), an American soldier knelt on the suspect while an interpreter held a towel over his face. A second South Vietnamese poured water on it. This induces a fleeting sense of suffocation and drowning which is calculated to make a suspect talk. In this case, it worked and the man admitted his complicity with the Communists. Later, his hair still damp from the water treatment, he held his chin in his hands and contemplated his fate. He was taken away, presumably to a prison stockade. The water technique is said to be in fairly common use among Allied troops in Vietnam. Those who practice it say it combines the advantages of being unpleasant enough to make people talk while still not causing permanent injury.

